



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
Prevention and Emergency Response Program
SITUATION REPORT

Tug Challenger Sinking

SITREP #: 1

SPILL #: 15119925501

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 4:00 p.m. September 14, 2015

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): R.D. Robinson

INCIDENT LOCATION: In the Gastineau Channel at 58° 18.098'N, 134° 26.340'W.

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: The vessel sank on September 12, 2015 at 2 p.m. in approximately 20 feet of water.

HOW AND WHEN THE SPILL WAS DISCOVERED: The United States Coast Guard (USCG) Sector Juneau Command Center received phone calls after the vessel sank on Saturday afternoon.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: The PRP estimates that there is a maximum of 250 gallons of diesel onboard the vessel.

CAUSE OF SPILL: The vessel sank in approximately 20 feet of water. The cause of the sinking is under investigation by the USCG.

SOURCE CONTROL: Containment boom was placed around the vessel by USCG responders on Sunday.

RESPONSE ACTION: After arriving on scene on Saturday, minimal sheening was observed by members of the USCG. The sheen was determined to be unrecoverable. There are no new reports of sheening at this time. The USCG deployed 500 feet of containment boom at the site of the vessel on Sunday. Southeast Lightering (SEAL) and Global Diving & Salvage, Inc. were contracted to evaluate and remove pollution sources aboard the tug. Diving and lightering operations commence today. There is no firm completion time or date. The USCG and ADEC continue to monitor the vessel and surrounding areas for any signs of pollution.

As a precaution, ADEC contacted the primary environmentally sensitive area in the vicinity of the spill – the Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc. (DIPAC) Macaulay Salmon Hatchery. DIPAC operational concerns include the salt water intakes for the aquarium and the active sport fishery for returning Coho salmon at the hatchery.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: There have been no confirmed reports of impacted fish or wildlife in the area.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: While diving and lightering operations continue, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) is in the process of determining the availability of funds, if any, which could be utilized for removal of the vessel from state submerged lands.



Weather: Today: cloudy with periods of rain. High 51F. Winds ESE at 10 to 20 mph; decreasing this evening. Chance of rain 100%. Rain near half an inch. Tomorrow: cloudy with periods of rain. High 51F. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 90%. Rainfall near half an inch.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

SOSC:	Bob Mattson, SOSC
FOSC:	Shannan Greene, FOSC
FOSCr:	LT Mickey Sanders, Chief of Incident Management, Sector Juneau

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION: As situation warrants.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Allison Natcher, Environmental Program Specialist, ADEC (907) 465-5367.

http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/response/sr_active.htm

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST: This situation report was distributed to the agencies listed on the standard distribution list, which includes the governor's office, Senator Sullivan's office, State Emergency Operations Center, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other state agencies. This situation report was also distributed to the following agencies and stakeholders:

AGENCY / STAKEHOLDER	NAME	SENT VIA	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	TELEPHONE	FAX
PRP	R.D. Robinson				
Senate Dist. P	Senator Dennis Egan	Email	senator.dennis.egan@akleg.gov	465-4947	465-2108
House Dist. 34	Representative Cathy Munoz	Email	representative.cathy.munoz@akleg.gov	465-3744	465-2273
House Dist. 33	Representative Sam Kito	Email	Representative.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov	465-4766	465-4748
Douglas Indian Assoc.	Clarence Laiti	Fax		364-2916	364-2917
City & Borough of Juneau	Merrill Sanford	E-mail	city_clerk@ci.juneau.ak.us	586-5240	586-5385
USCG Sector JNU CMD	Sector Command	Email	SSCJuneau@uscg.mil		
USCG (Sector JNU)	LT Mickey D. Sanders	Email	Mickey.d.sanders@uscg.mil	463-2479	
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USCG (Sector JNU)	MSTC James Pohlman	Email	James.r.Pohlman@uscg.mil	463-2495	
NMFS	Jon Kurland	Email	Jon.kurland@noaa.gov	586-7638	586-7358
USFS - Tongass Env. Engineer	Michele Marie Parker	Email	mmparker@fs.fed.us	518-1079	772-5896
USFS - Admiralty Island	Chad VanOrmer	Email	cvanormer@fs.fed.us	586-8800	586-8808
USFS - Juneau R.D.	Marti Marshall	Email	mmarshall01@fs.fed.us	789-6244	586-8808
SEAPRO	Dave Owings	Email	dave@seapro.org	225-7002	247-1117
Douglas Island Pink and Chum, Inc.	Eric Prestegard	Email	eric_prestegard@dipac.net		



USCG containment booming around the Tug Challenger. September 13, 2015. ADEC photo.